

### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-54 are pending in the present application. Claims 17-21, 27-31, 37-41, 47, 48, 53, and 54 have been amended, and Claims 1-16, 26, 36, 46, 49, and 52 have been cancelled by the present amendment.

This application is a divisional application of parent application 09/632,212, filed on August 3, 2000. The specification and title have been amended to include the same changes made in the parent application. The abstract has also been amended to correspond with the claimed invention.

The outstanding Office Action for the parent application indicates that Claims 17-19, 27-29, and 37-39 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. That Office Action also indicates that Claims 20-25, 30-35, 40-45, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, and 54 are in allowable condition.

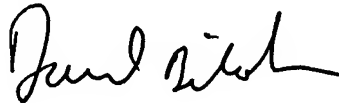
Accordingly, to place this application in condition for allowance, Claims 17-19, 27-29, and 37-39 have been rewritten into independent form.

In addition, the title, specification and abstract have been amended in light of the comments noted in the parent application. It is believed no new matter has been added.

Consequently, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

David A. Bilodeau  
Registration No. 42,325



22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
GJM/DAB/kst

I:\atty\Std\238486us-pr.doc